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George W. Townar

1. Towar family

2. Towar, George Washington, 1812 - 1895

A.H. (2)

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George W. Towar
A Centennial
Memorial

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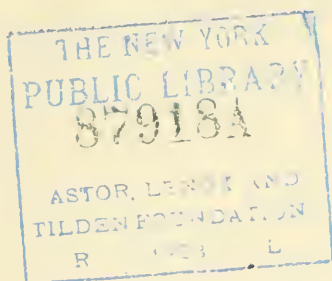
George W. Towar

and

Short Genealogy
of Family



DETROIT, AUGUST 10, 1910



NEW YORK
JAN 10 1904
VOLUME 1

NOTE

The number at beginning of name of children indicates the order of birth in family and number following the name shows the generation from Thomas Towar, Clackmannan, Scotland.

1947



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MR. and MRS. GEO. W. TOWAR
at 42 and 40 years
(From a daguerreotype)

P R E F A C E



The month of August of this year being the centennial birth month of George W. Towar, the subject of this sketch, his boys now living thought it would be a pleasant as well as a loyal act to come together and hold a memorial meeting to celebrate the day and rehearse the doings of their father's life and all the reminiscences of his manhood.

The writer has gathered an account of the Towar family as far back as he was able, and related what anecdotes that are heirlooms to promote the festivities of the occasion.

He thought it would be a good thing if the data here collected should be printed and bound in permanent form, as he is hopeful that the end of the Towar family is not yet, for the possibilities of future evolution are such that a prophet may yet arise from this family who will have an important message for the world which the world will gladly stand up and take notice of; in which case this labor of love would be amply compensated and the writer's ghost view with complacency.

An old man laid up with age and chronic rheumatism has put a few days of his leisure to use, with the hope that some future old man of like leisure may take up the subject and extend it for the entertainment of future Towars until, perhaps, the prophet shall actually come, and then all doubt of the utility of this little booklet will be dispelled.

GEORGE W. TOWAR, JR.

DETROIT, June, 1910.

THE TOWAR FAMILY

The Towar family, as far as we are able to trace its history, originated in Scotland.

There is a tradition that the first members of the family in Scotland came of Huguenot stock and emigrated to that country from France on the revocation of the Edict of Nantes by the French King in 1685.

However, there is not much evidence to bolster up this theory, and I think it can be consigned to the limbo of forgetfulness without much loss of historic truth.

A professional genealogist who was employed by Mrs. Isabel Farrar, a granddaughter of Charles Towar of Alloa, Scotland, reports on his examination of the Edinburgh records as follows: "I have been in Edinburgh and have found in the Alloa register the marriage of Charles Towar of Alloa and Charlotte Thompson of Clackmannan on the 15th of February, 1766. I have not found the name of Charles on the baptismal record, but on September 23, 1739, was baptized a child (name and sex not given) of Thomas Towar and Margaret Martine."

This Thomas Towar and Margaret Martine were without doubt the parents of Charles Towar, because in this same baptismal record there are names of children of Thomas Towar and Margaret Martine which appear subsequently in the family of Charles, name for name with much fidelity.

“Towars (or de Tounibies^(?)) was a very old Scottish name. ‘William de Towars, on the English marches, was taken prisoner by William de Rodom (English) in 1359.’—Issue Rolls, pg. 38.

“John de Touris supplied wine to the Scottish King in 1369.”—Exchequer Rolls, pg. 200.

“John de Touris de Inverleith (near Edinburgh) was living in 1439.”—Exchequer Rolls, pg. 578.

“Since that date the Towars of Inverleith can be traced to the middle of the 17th century.” The genealogist continues his record from the old time registers in the line of what he believes to be the origin of the Charles Towar family, and although it is not very clear reads as follows: “George, son of George Touris of Bristo (near Edinburgh), Feby. 10, 1554.”(?)

“Sir George Touris of Garnelton, son and heir of John Touris of Inverleith, May 14th, 1605.”

“John Touris, son and heir of Sir Alexander Touris of Inverleith, Knight, Jany. 12th, 1648.”

“Thomas Touris, heir of Francis Touris, land (?) in Edinburg, Feby. 15th, 1583.”

The above notes are extracted from the Retours.

The genealogist further remarks: “Few Huguenots can be traced in Scotland, as they got mixed up with the people and did not require to be made denizens as in England.”

“Unless you have proof that Charles was of French extraction, I should think that he belonged to a branch of the Inverleith Touris family.”

Further on he says: “I find Elias Tourie from Flanders was in London in 1618, and a George Tourie from Scotland was made a denizen of London in 1572, possibly George Tourie of Bristo.”

Thus much for the glimmer and haze which envelops the origin of the Towars.

We come down now to facts and modern times. I copy herewith the record found in the old family bible of Henry Towar of Alloway, Wayne Co., N. Y. This is his father's family.

ALLOA, SCOTLAND, March 14, 1766.
Charles Towar² and Charlotte Thompson
married this day.

Births from this union:

1	Charlotte ³	Towar, born	January	15, 1767
2	James ³	Towar, "	August	25, 1768
3	Isabella ³	Towar, "	December	24, 1769
4	Henry ³	Towar, "	July	16, 1771
5	Charles ³	Towar, "	April	28, 1773
6	Margaret ³	Towar, "	June	4, 1775
7	Jane ³	Towar, "	May	22, 1777
8	John ³	Towar, "	January	23, 1779
9	Janet ³	Towar, "	January	14, 1781
10	Ann ³	Towar, "	May	20, 1782
11	Emilia ³	Towar, "	August	21, 1783
12	John ³	Towar, "	September	8, 1785
13	Alexander ³	Towar, "	January	22, 1789

Charles Towar², Senior, died 17th November, 1788, aged 51 years.

Charlotte Towar, Senior, died the 28th day of March, 1804. Born the day the battle of Culloden was fought, being the 16th day of April, 1746.

This family lived and the children were all born in Alloa, Scotland. It is a tradition that Charles, the head of the family, was a malster in Alloa; he died in 1788, while many of the children were quite young.

In 1791 James and Henry, the two oldest boys, emigrated to America. Henry came over in the employ of Sir Charles Williamson as clerk. Sir Charles was agent for a very large land grant estate

located in central New York, and known as the Pultney Estate, comprising several thousand acres.

Soon after the two oldest boys left home (a year or two, perhaps) Charles, the next oldest, came also, bringing the mother and all the children to this country, the father being dead some years.

They settled at first in Philadelphia, but he soon secured a farm in Tuscorora County, Pennsylvania, and thither he took the whole family and made a home for them.

The mother Charlotte died in 1804. The boys and girls gradually dispersed, the boys by seeking avocations and the girls mostly by marriage, as mentioned below.

It is not possible in the scope assigned to this memorial to follow out in detail all the families and the descendants of the children of Charles Towar and Charlotte Thompson, but it is thought it might be interesting to many of the family here immediately concerned to hear in a general way the reminiscences of an old lady, now living in her 98th year of age, Hannah Mathews Towar, widow of George W. Towar, and who possesses in a remarkable degree a clear memory of the olden time of her girlhood, and who saw and knew many of the members of the families of the Charles Towar children.

Mrs. Hannah Towar says of Charlotte³:

Charlotte³ Towar, first child of Charles: "She was married in Philadelphia to a man by the name of ——— Bayne, who lived but a short time, but the issue of that marriage was a daughter, Joanna. This daughter grew up and became a 'very lovely woman.' She married a Dr. Mitchell of Philadelphia and left children, some of whom are now in St. Louis, Mo.

Charlotte married a second husband, David Hogan, a business man of Philadelphia. The issue of this second marriage was James, David and Cecilia."

James³ Towar, first son of Charles, married a lady in Philadelphia and had two children, daughters. He went to South America, it is believed on a business trip, but died there, as he was never heard from after leaving home.

Isabella³ Towar, second daughter, died in childhood.

Henry³ Towar, second son. See family of Henry Towar and Martha Seely, this memorial.

Charles³ Towar, third son, became a farmer in Tuscorora County, Pennsylvania, living there all his life unmarried, with his sister Jane as companion and housekeeper.

Margaret³ Towar, third daughter, married a Mr. Barton, a farmer of Tuscorora County, Pennsylvania. They had children, but their names are not remembered.

Jane³ Towar, fourth daughter, unmarried. Made her home all her life with her brother Charles on farm.

John³ Towar (1st) died in infancy.

Janet³ Towar, fifth daughter, married a Mr. Sweringen of Philadelphia. There were at least two children, a son James and a daughter. The writer of this sketch saw and visited the son, Mr. James Sweringen, in St. Louis, Mo., in 1859, where he was a retired business man with ample fortune, and a very genial gentleman of perhaps sixty years of age.

Ann³ Towar, sixth daughter, married a Mr. George Morris. They lived in Baltimore, Md., where Mr.

Morris owned and operated cotton mills. There were four daughters in this family, but the names are not remembered.

Emelia,³ or generally called Emily Towar, the seventh daughter, married a Mr. Boggs, but there is nothing further remembered of this family.

John³ **Towar** (2nd), fifth son, born in Scotland, 1785. Died in Lansing, Michigan, December, 1860. Married first wife, Lydia Reynolds, November, 1813, at Sodus, N. Y. The children:

1—**Charles**⁴ died in infancy.

2—**Mary**,⁴ born August, 1817; died 1853. Married Isaac Carl. Issue, one child, Lydia,⁵ who married Frank Northrup and had one child that died in infancy. Lydia died in 1862.

3—**Alexander**,⁴ born June, 1820; died December 5, 1900, at Lansing, Mich. Married Jane E. Smith. The children:

John Alvin,⁵ who married Hannah E. Bertram. Issue, Ezra Alexander,⁶ which last married Mary Ann Dann, November, 1898.

John Alvin⁵ married second wife, Emily Catharine Wangler, and the issue was three children, Phebe Elizabeth,⁶ Charles Franklin,⁶ and Wangler.⁶

John³ **Towar** (2nd) married for second wife Ruth Sumner Bartlett, March, 1822. The issue of this last marriage was

4—**George Morris**,⁴ born June 1, 1826. Farmer all his life. He was an active, energetic man and accumulated through a long agricultural career a very large, valuable and finely equipped farm. Married for first wife Jane A. Taylor, September, 1851, and for second wife, Elvira Northrup, at Lansing, November, 1857. From this last union were born

1—**Perry George**,⁵ October, 1859, who married Ida May Smith, January, 1891, and from this union there was born Gladys Electa,⁶ 1898; George Edward,⁶ 1900; Genevieve Estelle,⁶ 1902. He graduated at Mich. Agl. College as B.S., 1885. Became an expert mechanician of agricultural machinery, but his bent was towards crops, and he turned his attention to sugar beet culture, in which line his services became very valuable as expert and manager in agricultural districts where that industry was paramount. Died while on duty in Kansas, 1906, of infectious fever.

2—**James De Loss**,⁵ born September, 1863, at Lansing, Mich. Graduated at Mich. Agl. College as B.S. in 1885 and as M.S. in 1902. Has been a busy man in agricultural pursuits all his life, experimenting, lecturing, etc. Held position of Agriculturist, Rhode Island Agl. Expt. Station for seven years. Then the same position at Mich. Agl. Expt. Station for four years. Accepted position as Professor of Agriculture for the State of South Australia for two years; then spent three years as Professor of Agriculture and Director of the Experiment Station, Laramie, Wyoming. Was for a short time President of the University of Wyoming and has just recently retired to the fine old farm of his boyhood. Married Hannah Louise Proseus, May, 1890, at Sodus, N. Y. She was born June, 1865. Child,

James De Loss,⁶ Jr., born at Kingston, R. I., August, 1892.

3—**Jennie Ann**,⁵ born Lansing, Mich., December, 1865. Graduated Mich. Agl. College as B.S., 1886. Married May 28, 1889, at Lansing, Mich., Charles S. Whitmore, born 1865. From this union there were three children.

1—**Dorothy Pearl**,⁶ born August, 1890; died in infancy.

2—**Ruth**,⁶ born February, 1892; died in infancy.

3—**Morris**,⁶ born April, 1895.

3—**Jennie Ann**⁵ married, for second husband, James A. Woodard in 1908. They live on Belden Avenue, Chicago.

Mr. Whitmore died in 1899.

5—**Charlotte Ann**,⁴ born July 4, 1828; died November 29, 1854. Married Zina Parker at Sodus, N. Y., September, 1853. Issue: one son, Wayland Towar⁵ Parker, who after the death of father and mother was brought in family of his uncle, George Morris. He married Sophia Eliza Cameron (born 1863), December 14, 1887, at Lansing. Children from this marriage:

1—**Arthur Clifford**⁶ Parker, born July 1, 1892.

2—**Harold Glenn**⁶ Parker, born January, 1907.

6—**Emily Jane**,⁴ born June 25, 1830; died July 27, 1883. Married Isaac Carl, March 22, 1854. Mr. Carl was the husband of Emily Jane's older sister, Mary, who died in 1853. The children of this marriage:

1—**Arthur Washington**,⁵ born December 6, 1857.
Married Carrie E. Smith, October, 1879.
The children:

- 1—**Parker A.**⁶ **Carl**, born August, 1888.
- 2—**Carla May**⁶ **Carl**, born May, 1890.
- 3—**Cora V.**⁶ **Carl**, born September, 1891.
- 4—**Marcia Marie**⁶ **Carl**, born March, 1910.

2—**Charles Leroy**,⁵ born January 28, 1859. Married Corla N. Dennis, March 21, 1884. The children:

- 1—**Leonard M.**⁶ **Carl**, born August, 1885.
- 2—**Lela M.**⁶ **Carl**, born September, 1887.
- 3—**Rollin D.**⁶ **Carl**, born September, 1891.

7—**Eunice Eliza**,⁴ born January 31, 1834; died May, 1862.
Married Eli Snyder, November 26, 1856. One child:

Frank Eli,⁵ born April 3, 1859, married Louisa Ellen Bowman, December 25, 1884. The children:

- 1—**Louise May**,⁶ born March, 1886.
- 2—**William Towar**,⁶ born December, 1888.
- 3—**Genira Nash**,⁶ born July, 1890.
- 4—**Ethel Eliza**,⁶ born October, 1891.
- 5—**Morris Eli**,⁶ born October, 1895.
- 6—**Bessie Ellen**,⁶ born February, 1901.
- 7—**Mabel R.**,⁶ born February, 1903.

Wm. Towar Snyder, of the above family, was the first of his generation to "break" into matrimony, and married Eva Jessie Lookup, March 11, 1908.

Alexander³ Towar, the sixth son, married Harriet _____ (name not remembered). The issue of this marriage was one child, which died young.

Alexander was a genial gentleman who had a long and active business career in Philadelphia with Mr.

James Hogan, son of David Hogan, under the firm name of Towar & Hogan, stationers and bookbinding.

Of the family of Henry Towar,³ son of Charles Towar² and Charlotte Thompson and grandson of Thomas Towar¹ and Margaret Martine of Clackmannan, Scotland, the writer is more especially interested in talking about, as it is through this blood that he has his status here on earth.

As before mentioned, Henry was born in Alloa, Scotland, May 28, 1771. Alloa is near Edinburgh and in what is known as the lowlands of Scotland. The lowlanders are a more industrious, agricultural, manufacturing and thrifty people than the highlanders, who are a proud race of huntsmen and soldiers, and affect to despise the lowly life of the lowlanders.

Henry, in speaking of the class prejudice, said it was common to hear this speech in the lowlands when a highlander was seen approaching: "Here comes a hielander with his hish and his horn; he's as poor as the divil but a gentleman born."

As already stated, Henry came to this country in 1791 in his twentieth year. He was engaged for several years with Sir Charles Williamson in disposing of and settling up the Pultney estate, which was located mostly in Tioga and Ontario counties, New York, and while so engaged selected for himself a very fine tract of land of several hundred acres in extent lying in what is now Wayne County, two miles south of the village of Lyons, that county.

This farm finally became his homestead for life, and it was here that he broadened out into that more perfect business and social life that marked him a leader in the early history of New York. Many of his children were born here, but several of the older ones were born in a small place called Vernon, on Seneca



HENRY TOWAR
(From a painting, 1814)

Lake, where after leaving the land office he had opened a general store for sale of country goods before going on to the farm.

Henry had received a fine education in his native land and wrote the English with a good diction and great smoothness; but when he first came to this country he had many of the Scotch provincialisms of English speech we often find in Burns. He finally became very sensitive to this "outré" speech and corrected it altogether, but an old neighbor who had known him in his youth used to like to chaff him about as follows: "Do you recollect, Henry, down in the old land office when you and I were boys, and I asked you the whereabouts of Mr. Williamson and you replied, 'Ah, but hee's ganged awaah ta tha harses heeds,'" meaning that he had gone to the neighboring village of Horseheads. Then Henry would get very confused and beg the neighbor to change the subject.

During Henry's early service in the land office he met and married Miss Martha Seely on July 23, 1794. The Seelys were a numerous family in Tioga County in the early days. Several families of that name had come up from Orange County with the Sayres when that region was a wilderness.

They had been in America for many generations and had located in eastern New York and New Jersey at an early day, coming from England originally. Some of the men were revolutionary soldiers and others contractors for supplies to the Continental army under Washington. The Seelys, Sayres, Mathews, Maxwells and Conklings all came up to Tioga County from eastern New York about the same time, and intermarried largely, so that it used to be said humorously that one couldn't drive to town or walk the streets without encountering a cousin in

every second person met. A stranger visiting Newtown remarked: "I find I have to be very careful in my criticism of these people, as the chances are two to one that the person criticised is cousin to the one I am talking to." The Seelys were a nervous, pushing, restless family, the members occupying all branches of industry of the new country; farmers, merchants, hotel keepers, etc., and always being leaders in the communities in which they resided.

This high grade nervous organization of the Seelys showed itself down through their descendants for many generations, and was characteristic of the blood. This was the character of Henry's wife. The husband, however, was of a different mental balance; he showed the cool, imperturbable, canny Scotch character; was of fine mental and moral attainments; regarded in his community in Wayne County as having high ideas of justice, probity and that good feeling for the whole people that advances the social state and promotes order and happiness. Consequently soon after his settlement in Wayne County the people solicited him to accept the office of justice of the peace, but he resisted their pleadings, saying, "I am too busy a man; I can't give the office the time and attention it demands." However, his daughter has told me that his business office was often thronged with people seeking advice, which was freely given, in all the multitudinous interests of that new country. When the militia law was enacted in New York and the force organized, Mr. Towar accepted the office of captain in the organization, and ever after that went by the name of Captain among his acquaintances. Captain Towar held a few slaves before the law of 1808 provided for their manumission. Old "Bill" was quite a character in the neighborhood and black as ebony. There was

an old "mammy" in the kitchen and one or two younger fellows. When the day for their freedom arrived, of course Mr. Towar told them they were free to go and do as they pleased, but if they chose to stay he would employ them. The old mammy elected to stay, but Bill and the other two saw big visions in freedom and went away. Not a great while after that, several weeks perhaps, the Captain, getting up early one morning, went out into the woodshed and there was old Bill, looking very shame-faced and penitent, and he began to make all sorts of apologies, saying, "Captain Towar, I'se no use no whar else in dis yere wold on'y jis hyar, and so I ses to myself, you old fool Bill, you jes go right back and say I'se want to stay on de ol place as long as I live." So the Captain put Bill back in his old quarters, and the old man was happy. Not long after this, Bill was coming home late one night (he was a frequenter of the village saloon) and he saw a light down in the grist mill. He crept down there stealthily and saw the miller, who had been under suspicion, was about to appropriate a bag of flour. Bill made a rush for the miller, grabbing an axe on the way, and raising it high above the miller's head shouted, "Miller, ef you stir I knock your brains out," then shouting at the top of his voice, "Captain Towar." The miller was so overwhelmed with shame at being caught by the "nigger" that he crouched low on the ground under Bill's threatening axe, until the repeated and vociferous shouts of "Captain Towar" brought aid and he was secured.

Not a great many years ago the writer of this sketch revisited that old Towar farm, after an absence of over fifty years. It is a beautiful old place, as it always was, but what a change! The old village of Alloway adjoining the farm is hardly changed at all;

its ancient buildings and glorious quietude remain as of yore, but the old farm with its appendages of grist mill, distillery, mill-dam across the creek and delightful old apple orchard below the house, are all gone. The house and grounds are all spic span and bright with white fences and prim gates, but where are the rail fences we used to climb going after those delicious belly-band apples, and especially the old mill race with its drooping willows and elms, the scene of our early piscatorial pleasures and where on one never-to-be-forgotten occasion we caught our first perch "over a foot long." All these are gone; the world is changed because the gray beard cannot look out of the bare-foot boy's eyes.

**Record from Family Bible of Henry Towar
Marriages and Births**

NEWTOWN, TIOGA COUNTY, N. Y.,
July 23, 1794.

Henry³ Towar, born in Alloa, Scotland, and Martha Seely, born in town of Chester, Orange County, N. Y., were united in the bonds of matrimony at the place and on the date above written.

Births from this union:

- 1 Charles⁴ Towar, born at Newtown, Tioga County, September 26, 1796.
- 2 Zerviah⁴ Towar, born at Vernon, Ontario County, August 4, 1798.
- 3 Isabella⁴ Towar, born at Vernon, Ontario County, August 25, 1800.
- 4 Henry Thompson⁴ Towar, born at Vernon, Ontario County, January 22, 1802.





ELIZABETH M. TOWAR
Photograph at 90 years

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- 5 Dudley Walsh⁴ Towar, born town of Vernon, Ontario County, April 15, 1804.
 - 6 James⁴ Towar, born town of Phelps, Ontario County, July 23, 1806.
 - 7 Jonas Seely⁴ Towar, born town of Phelps, Ontario County, October 3, 1808.
 - 8 George Washington⁴ Towar, born town of Phelps, Ontario County, July 10, 1810.
 - 9 Martha Emily⁴ Towar, born town of Phelps, Ontario County, October 31, 1812.
 - 10 David Hogan⁴ Towar, born town of Phelps, Ontario County, March 1, 1814.

The remembrances of Mrs. Hannah Towar of the above family are as follows: Henry Towar, the head of the family, died at the house of his son-in-law, Dr. L. Grover, Knowlesville, Orleans County, N. Y., of apoplexy or brain clot on the 7th of July, 1846, aged 75 years. Martha Seely Towar, mother of the above family, died at her home on the old farm, Alloway, Wayne County, N. Y., on the 2nd day of March, 1814. Captain Towar, after the death of his first, married (2nd) Mrs. Susan Sayre, a widow of Daniel Sayre. She lived but a few years, when the Captain again became a widower and he married (3rd) Mrs. Elizabeth Mathews, widow of Fletcher Mathews (formerly of Romulus, Seneca County) in September, 1824. Mrs. Mathews, when she married Mr. Towar, had five children from 10 to 17 years old. These, with the six or eight young Towars, made a rattling good big family when they got them all together. Mrs. Elizabeth Mathews Towar* died at the home of her daughter,

*Mrs. Elizabeth M. Towar was a Sayre, daughter of James Sayre, Horseheads, Chemung County, N. Y. See the book of the Sayre Family, published by Theodore M. Bauta, New York, 1907, pg. 412.

Mrs. Susan Hays, Horseheads, Chemung County, N. Y., June 12, 1870, aged 92 and a half years.

1—**Charles**,⁴ the eldest child of Henry and Martha Towar, grew to manhood and opened a general merchandise establishment in Lyons, Wayne County, N. Y. He married a Miss Mary Leonard, but there were no children from this union, and he died in 1834, at about 38 years of age.

2—**Zerviah** or **Theresa**,⁴ died in childhood.

3—**Isabella**,⁴ died in childhood.

4—**Henry Thompson**,⁴ second son and fourth child, married Polly Glover. From this union there were four children, viz:

1—**Charles Alexander**,⁵ born December 31, 1822. married Almira Rachel Smith, June 30, 1850. Children:

1—**Frederick Dean**,⁶ born August 30, 1854. Married Elizabeth Harriet Workman, October 12, 1892. Children:

1—**Mildred Almira**,⁷ born April 20, 1897.

2—**Claude Frederick**,⁷ born November 2, 1899.

3—**Dean LeRoy**,⁷ born February 14, 1902.

2—**Grace**,⁶ born ————. Married Archie Walter Banks, June 1, 1881. Children:

1—**Herbert Dean**,⁷

2—**Archie Emmet**,⁷

3—**Anna Lillian**,⁷

4—**Rachel Almira**,⁷

5—**Grace Elizabeth**.⁷

2—**Henry Thompson**,⁵ married Harriet Redner. Child:

1—**Flora**,⁶ married Eli Taylor Connor.

-
- 3—**Martha**,⁵ married Alphonzo Platte. Children:
1—**Ario**,⁶ and
2—**John Garrett**.⁶
- 4—**Elizabeth**,⁵ married Henry C. Redner. Child:
1—**Laura Louise**.⁶
- 5—**Dudley Walsh**,⁴ third son and fifth child, died from accidental injury at 27 years of age.
- 6—**James**,⁴ married Ella Hays (English). Children:
1—**Henry Thompson**,⁵ born September 2, 1832; died November 8, 1904. Married Mary Alice Williams. No children.
2—**Martha Joanna**,⁵ born June 8, 1834; died January 24, 1890. Married Van Rensalaer Richmond. Children:
1—**Ellen Hays**,⁶ born July, 1860. Married William P. Mirrick, June 28, 1888. One son:
1—**Gordon R.**⁷ **Mirrick**.
2—**Catharine Towar**,⁶ born March, 1862. Married Lewis T. Sweet, October 24, 1894.
3—**Alexander Hayes**,⁵ born August 14, 1836. Married Harriett Elizabeth Williams, February 23, 1864. Died January 23, 1908. Child:
1—**Fredericka Williams**.⁶
4—**Ellen Hayes**,⁵ born July 29, 1837; died May 8, 1861. Married Edward A. Dickerson. No children.
- 7—**Jonas Seely**⁴ **Towar**, born town of Phelps, Ontario County, N. Y., July 23, 1808. Married Louisa Asbury La Grave (French). Children:
1—**Thomas Henry**,⁵ married Rosa Bentley of Jersey City, N. J. Issue, three daughters.

2—**Laura Louisa**,⁵ married John V. Brower of New York City. Issue, two sons and two daughters:

1—**Harry**,⁶

2—**John**,⁶

3—**Cephise**,⁶

4—**Laura**.⁶

3—**Cephise C.**,⁵ married Alfred W. Bates of New York City. Issue:

1—**Willard**,⁶ deceased.

2—**Willie**,⁶ deceased.

3—**T. Towar**,⁶ married Bertha Scheffer.

4—**Putnam A.**,⁶ married Emeline Vernam.

5—**John Grenville**,⁶ married Anita Boulton.

8—**George Washington**⁴ Towar, born town of Phelps, Ontario County, N. Y., August 10, 1810. Married Hannah Mathews, November 6, 1832. (See history of family on another page.)

9—**Martha Emily**⁴ Towar, born town of Phelps, Ontario County, N. Y., October 31, 1812. Married Dr. Lysander C. Grover. Children:

1—**George Clinton**,⁵ born Alloway, Wayne County, N. Y., August 19, 1832; died 1852.

2—**Edward Smith**,⁵ born Alloway, Wayne County, N. Y., December 1, 1834; died 1837.

*3—**Emily**,⁵ born Alloway, Wayne County, N. Y., March 8, 1837; died 1907. Married Harvey F. Frost, January 20, 1857. Issue:

1—**William George**,⁶ born July, 1860.

2—**Harry Smith**,⁶ born November 25, 1863.

4—**Edward Lysander**,⁵ born August 19, 1839; died 1853.

*5—**Cecelia**,⁵ born July 11, 1841. Married William Henry Frost, October 9, 1862. Issue:

*See the book Frost Family in America, published by Dr. E. L. Frost, where an elaborate history of this family is produced.

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- 1—Edward Lysander,⁶ born January 30, 1865.
- 2—Mary Emily,⁶ born January 28, 1873; died 1907.
- 6—Henry Towar,⁵ born June 10, 1845; died December 25, 1848.
- 7—Alice Elvira,⁵ born October 10, 1847. Married George Allen Smith, March 15, 1871. Issue:
- 1—Grover Dwight,⁶ born March 17, 1873.
- 2—Walter Eugene,⁶ born September 5, 1875.
- 8—Isabella,⁵ born July 31, 1849; died March 28, 1866.
- 9—Clarence Clifton,⁵ born June 22, 1853; died February 11, 1883.
- 10—David Hogan⁴ Towar, born town of Phelps, Ontario County, N. Y., March 1, 1814; died in boyhood.

George Washington⁴ Towar, of the above family, is the principal subject of this sketch, and this booklet is written in honor of his centennial birthday, which occurs on August 10, 1910.

I have commented on a former page on George's parents and their personal and family characteristics. He inherited from his father a strong, vigorous and well balanced blood, bone and muscle combination, and his mother's influence in the complex was shown in his exceptionally strong nervous organization.

There is nothing of record in his boyhood days to tell us of anything beyond the average boy life of the time. There are traditions that have sifted down through these many years that the young man was one of the foremost among his fellows in all athletic sports.

His Student Days

George being one of the younger members of the Henry Towar family, his father became ambitious that he should enjoy larger facilities for the higher education than his older brothers had. His aunt, Mrs. David Hogan (Charlotte Towar) invited the young man to come to Philadelphia and make her house his home while starting on his academic career. Accordingly, in 1824, when he was 14 years old, he became domiciled at his aunt's home and was entered as a student in advanced studies at an academy in Philadelphia. He pursued his studies there with much pleasure and profit for a year, and coming home on a visit his father thought he had better change his place for study to Geneva, near his home, at which place a new institution for advanced studies had recently been established. Accordingly, the young man went to the Geneva academy in the fall and took up his books with so much assiduity that before the year closed a very



GEORGE W. TOWAR

Photograph at 70 years

violent and persistent conjunctivitis, which was epidemic, had developed in both eyes. This disease proved so obstinate that he was obliged to go home, where the doctor kept him in a darkened room for many months. This was the end of his education from books, as the eyes showed so much weakness for many years that farther study was abandoned. He was now past 19 years old and his active nature began to plan for a life work which he could look forward to for a livelihood and success. He finally decided upon a mercantile life and entered the general store of Mr. Moses Swift at Waterloo, Seneca County, N. Y., a junior clerk, which meant a roustabout or man of all work.

His Physical Characteristics

Mr. Towar in his prime was as fine a specimen of physical manhood as could be found in the country side. He stood five feet eleven and a half inches in his stocking feet, and his make up in other dimensions was proportional and ideal. His head was massive and the high vault of the cranium gave it an ennobling look. He wore a No. 7 $\frac{3}{8}$ hat and the measurement around brow and occiput was 23 $\frac{5}{8}$ inches. These measurements would indicate a brain weighing near 58 to 60 ounces, considerably above the average. The brow was rather heavy and beneath it a kindly gray eye looked out. The nose was prominent but not roman. The mouth small and the under jaw rather too small for best proportion. The neck was rather slender for one of his build, but he had a great big capacious chest whose walls were as flexible and elastic as those of a circus performer. His measurement around chest at nipple was 38 inches in repose. The backbone had the antero-posterior curvature for a perfectly erect, easy

carriage, and was furnished with massive muscles. The abdomen was perpendicular from breast bone to pelvis, and the walls never carried an ounce of superfluous fat. The arms were rather long but finely formed and muscular. The hands were shapely, large and bony. The legs were rather long and furnished with muscles of the finest quality. The foot was shapely with a high arch and required a No. 8 boot. His carriage was graceful and easy, and he was one of the most untiring walkers I ever knew. He was erect and nimble on his feet until the day of his death. He could walk nine miles a day over country roads at 70 years of age without fatigue, and did it frequently in his business from choice. He weighed during his early and middle life about 165 pounds on the average; after 70 years he shrank to 145 pounds.

He was strong in bone and sinew beyond others of his weight. On one occasion, when over 60 years of age, there was a load of English dairy salt in sacks weighing 225 pounds each drove up to the door of his creamery to be unloaded; there were a couple of burly young fellows, employees, standing by; the sacks looked heavy and formidable. Mr. Towar took hold of a sack, motioned the employee to give him a twist of it onto his back, swung it on easily and trudged off up a flight of stairs to the salt storage in the butter room. The men were astonished; the best they could do was the carrying of one sack between them. His teeth were a source of great annoyance to him in later life, and by 60 years he had to have a full set of artificials. He hardly knew what sickness was, and few men have gone through a life of 85 years with less discomfort from illness. All the organs of physical life were as nearly perfect as it often falls to the lot of humanity to possess. His heart, lungs and digestive

apparatus were never or scarcely never at fault in their respective functions. His constitutional resistance to the toxic influence of micro-organisms was most pronounced; at one time, when most of his family was prostrated in a new country and climate by the malarial parasite, he complained only of a few "sore boils."

His Mental and Social Life

As before mentioned, Mr. Towar received through his mother's family an inheritance of a strong nervous system, so much so that during his whole life he was known to his friends and acquaintances as a man of extraordinary nervous energy, untiring in endeavor, optimistic in thought and persistent and determined in all enterprises in which he engaged. This large and generous equipment of brain and ganglionic power was more or less modified, and greatly to his own comfort and usefulness, by the conservative influences of his father's blood, which had the tendency to control and conserve to practical ends the exuberant nerve vitality he was always possessed of. He was quick to perceive and master the complexities in business or social life; not so much by studying its phases carefully as by that intuitive perception given only to the seer. And when a course appealed to his intuition as correct, no hardship or opposition could prevent him from pushing it through to its legitimate sequence, whatever that might be.

He inherited from both paternal and maternal sources a high and broad sense of honor as well as a generous desire to be of use to the world and have his life count for its betterment.

Mr. Towar was an independent thinker, relying for his course in life solely on his inherited apperception guided by his own experiences and study. Clamor,

“suggestion” or outside pressure swayed him not at all. He had great respect for the facts of science and the reasoning of common sense, but the senseless foibles which afflict modern society were a source of constant reprobation and disgust for him. His ethical ideas were the outcome of his devotion to truth and his sense of duty to the world.

His Family Life

Mr. Towar was always chivalrous and deferential toward the female sex, and held it the highest and most sacred duty to keep pure the marital relationship.

He was married at 22 years of age, and lived with his wife through 63 years of sunshine and storm. This union was a most happy one, and no family storms ever arose to mar in the slightest degree its glorious beauty and ideal oneness. Although the husband and wife were each independent in temperament, there was always that fine feeling of deference of one toward the other that produced a charming home life and a unity of life and purpose that is not perhaps so frequently seen in these days of fashion and sociologic unrest. None of the children ever heard an ungracious word pass the lips of husband towards wife or of wife towards husband.

Mr. Towar was not a great reader of literature, as his early opportunities for culture in that direction had been sadly interfered with by the unfortunate eye trouble during his student days already mentioned. Yet he enjoyed fine poetry, standard novels and historical literature with much zest, and always had apt quotations from Burns or others to point an argument or adorn a story.

His Business Life

Mr. Towar's business life began in the general store of Moses Swift of Waterloo in 1829, when he was 19 years old. An older brother, Jonas, had been clerk at this store for some years previous.

This was a large general store, dealing in nearly all the merchandise sold in that region at the time, and buying also largely of the farmers grain, vegetables, wool and butter.

Mr. Towar, being an athletic young man, as before mentioned, was naturally selected by the management to assist in the heavy work of unloading grain, etc., from farmers' wagons to the storehouses. There were no power elevators in those days, and all the movement of grain and produce from wagons to storehouse had to be done by sheer human muscular force and lugging.

On one occasion, shortly after his initiation into the Swift store, he was detailed to assist in unloading a wagon load of grain. The driver noticed that he had an athletic young fellow as assistant, and sat down to smoke his pipe while the boy tugged at the bags. The young man objected to this inertia on the part of his confrere and remonstrated, saying that it was quite as much the duty of the driver as himself to handle the unloading, whereat the driver, taking his long lash whip, began to ply it on the back and legs of his assistant, saying that he was doing this to discipline and teach the young man his proper place.

Young Towar, of course, felt deeply aggrieved and insulted but, restraining his temper, after the driver went away made inquiries at the office as to whether he was obliged to do all the work or if the driver should do a share. He was informed that each should

do a share of the duty. The driver shortly afterward came again with a load. Young Towar had prepared his speech, and jumping down into the road near the wagon, told his former assailant that he had been very grossly insulted and mistreated by him and that he now proposed to punish him for his brutality by giving him a good thrashing. "Oh, ho!! my laddie," said the driver, "you are getting obstreperous and want a little further discipline." So saying, he jumped down on to the road facing the irate young man and they went at it fisticuffs in a fast and furious fight. But the fight was of short duration. The driver soon found that he was no match for the young whirlwind in front of him, for he soon received a blow squarely on the lower jaw which sent him to earth with a dull thud, and he was completely knocked out. As soon as he could get his breath he said hold, enough, and the young man helped him to his feet.

A lady from a nearby house who had witnessed the scrimmage came out and beckoned the fighters to come into the house, as the driver was bleeding profusely from the mouth, and she would wash him off.

They were very glad to do this, and it was found after washing off the blood that two front teeth had been driven far back into the mouth, splintering the alveolar process of the jaw. The good lady was an expert, for reaching back she brought the teeth back to their places and, squeezing the broken bone also to the position from which it came, she sent the wounded, but now subdued, driver away with the advice that if he would confine himself for a few days to a soup diet the teeth would grow solid again and as good as ever.

This was subsequently found to be correct, and the lady was declared to be the best dentist in the state by the belligerents.

Besides learning much concerning the methods of business of those times while at Swift's (about two years), he also learned from an accountant there, whom he described as a lightning calculator, the method of adding up columns of figures two figures wide by once going over them, and this gift or facility he never lost, as he was one of the most adept at adding columns of figures the writer ever knew.

After a service of a little more than two years he resigned his clerkship at the Swift store and came back to the paternal homestead. The father, Henry, was now over sixty years of age and began to feel the weight of years; he consequently proposed that the boys should take over his business of milling wheat into flour, which latter had grown in late years to such an extent that it, with the care and direction of a large farm, was more than the old gentleman felt that he could manage with comfort and justice to himself.

The Captain was rated a rich man in those early days in this community. He had a large, valuable farm, two grist mills and other interests in the neighborhood. He proposed to the boys, therefore, that they should form a copartnership and take over all of his milling and other outside interests, and leave him only the farm to look after.

Accordingly, an arrangement was perfected on this basis, and James, Jonas and George began to operate the flouring mills, adding another one by purchase at Seneca Falls to the two at Alloway.

This was in the year 1831 or 1832. From this time to 1837 was a period of great business activity in the United States. Business of nearly all kinds grew with surprising swiftness into volume hardly anticipated by the operators. There were large crops of wheat and other cereals, and a sharp demand for export to Europe.

Money became plenty. The Towar brothers took hold of the milling business with force and energy; George was especially active in purchasing wheat and exploiting the resources of the business. He travelled as far west as Michigan in the purchase of wheat, which was a long way in those days. Their business flourished and grew in volume year by year.

Wheat was cheap in America and flour was comparatively dear in England, and the making of flour for export showed a fine margin of profit; the only drawback was the condition of transportation from central New York to the seaboard. The Erie canal was then in the first years of its usefulness, but was only available during the summer months. For six months or more flour had to be stored awaiting transportation; but to avoid loss wheat had to be purchased and the mills kept going during the winter. This required capital to carry over the flour until it could be shipped. The Towar brothers didn't have much capital but were favorably known as an active concern, and did not have much trouble in borrowing money from the banks, as times were flush, and especially as they had a conservative old father who would endorse their paper.

They therefore became large debtors to the banks. George has told the writer that the year 1835 was a very profitable one in their business; the company made \$15,000 net that year, and they were not a little excited over their prospects. He said, "With such profits as this we were sure there was a big fortune for us right ahead, and all we had to do was to push on actively and take possession of it. In the season of 1836 we bought wheat widely, stored flour largely and were heavily indebted to the banks; then came the spring of '37 with its whisperings of failures and want

of confidence, and finally the panic of that memorable year, the most disastrous that has ever swept over this country. This meant ruin to us; the banks called in every loan. There was no accommodation. We had to sacrifice everything. We were bankrupt."

This was not a pleasing prospect for a young man of 27 with a family. But disaster could not dim nor bankruptcy dull the energy of a man of George W. Towar's fibre. He looked ahead and the world seemed inviting. There was no time to mourn. He must be up and doing.

While the business of the bankrupt company was being settled up, George W. Towar kept one or two of the mills going under the supervision of the receiver of the company for a year or two, and then moved with his family to Seneca Falls, where he had secured a lease of a flouring mill, and remained there about two years. This lease having expired, he moved to Milton, Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, where he made another venture in the flour milling business; but this business here not proving very profitable, it was closed out after a couple of years and he moved back to New York, this time locating the family at Alexander, Orleans County, where his sister Emily lived. Mr. Towar then started out in the quest of a business to employ his activities and support his family. For this purpose he visited Buffalo, N. Y., and there met with a gentleman from Canada who had a lumber mill and timber interests in that province, and Mr. Towar, after visiting this tract and the seat of the industry, decided to buy the mill. He and Mr. Van Norman, the owner, came to an agreement and the property was acquired. The family was now moved into the deep pine woods in the township of Walsing-

ham, Norfolk County, Canada West, in the early part of 1845.

With his usual energy, Mr. Towar took the old mill, repaired and remodeled it to a high state of efficiency in accordance with the then state of lumber manufacturing industry, and went into the bush for his logs. The lumber from the logs was carted to the lake (Erie) five miles distant, or in the time of high water rafted to the same point by floating it down the creek.

This last method of transport was very much cheaper than the first, and was practiced whenever the stage of the water admitted. The market for the lumber was at Buffalo, N. Y. This enterprise yielded fairly good results financially, but the business was small in volume and the facilities for business in that isolated region could not be brought up to the standard of what Mr. Towar considered a profitable and paying business. At about this time there was a good demand for mast and spar sticks for sailing vessels both on the ocean and the great lakes. There was a quality of pine timber growing in this region admirably adapted for masts and spars, but which would not yield lumber of the highest market value. Mr. Towar was quick to perceive the situation, and he at once commenced getting out big timber for spars and masts, rafting them down the creek during the flood season and making up large rafts in the bay at the mouth of the creek for transport by tugs to Buffalo across the lake. This enterprise eventually proved profitable as long as the spar timber lasted in the woods, but came to an end with its exhaustion.

The Walsingham region not furnishing any further desirable timber, Mr. Towar took the family and moved to Tilsonburg, Oxford County, Canada. This was a new lumber region and afforded larger areas of

pine and spar timber for exploitation. Here again mills were built, lumber manufactured for the Buffalo market and the getting out of spar timber vigorously prosecuted. The move to Tilsonburg was made in the year 1850.

Mr. Towar spent ten long, eventful years of his life while in his prime, between 40 and 50 years old, in Tilsonburg. During that time he drove the lumber and spar business along with characteristic energy, and had many successes and some failures; among the latter may be mentioned the loss of a very valuable spar raft worth over \$15,000, wrecked in a furious storm while crossing Lake Erie and driven up high and dry on to the sands of the beach at Long Point. These spars were eventually taken off the beach and sent to Buffalo, but the difficulty and expense attendant upon handling these great timbers, weighing many tons apiece, on that lone, stormy shore was quite equal to their value in the market, and the raft was considered a total loss.

In 1858 and 1859 the lumber business adjacent to Tilsonburg became dull; more, perhaps, because of the timber area being pretty well cut over, but also because of the stagnation of business on the American side on account of the financial panic which swept over the United States and Canada during the years of 1857 and 1858. Business being dull and lumber low in price, Mr. Towar determined to leave her majesty's dominions and come back to the United States. Accordingly, after disposing of his interests and settling up his affairs in Tilsonburg, he with the family moved to Detroit, Michigan, early in the year 1860.

This move was not made without much hesitation and some misgivings and regrets, because Canada had been his home and the family's home for something

like fifteen years of active business and social life. Three children had been born there and one child's grave made. The family had many warm friends there, and it was no small task to cut loose from all the friends and scenes of fifteen years of active life and attempt a new life in a new country and among a strange people. But, as was said before, the move was made and the family was comfortably domiciled on Congress Street, Detroit.

In his new surroundings Mr. Towar began an active campaign for something to do. Naturally his first thoughts were towards the lumber business and, as Michigan was then actively engaged in that industry, he gravitated towards it. He visited Saginaw, the center of the lumbering interests in Michigan, and made many acquaintances among the business men there.

Transportation of the manufactured lumber from the mills to the market was a considerable problem, as the freight vessels of those days were of small capacity, mostly sailers, and freight charges to the lake ports of Buffalo, Chicago, Cleveland and Detroit were high.

Mr. Towar was quick to perceive that a large economy could be introduced into the lumber carrying business by means either of rafts or large barges towed by steam tugs. He accordingly set himself at work to devise a raft, as he was not able to build barges. In a very short time he had constructed a model for a lumber raft, which on being shown to the Saginaw lumber dealers, so approved itself to them that they almost universally gave it their support and said that it seemed so modelled that lumber would be as safe crossing the lakes in this raft as though loaded into a vessel. A patent from the government was

immediately applied for and granted, for "certain improvements in the carriage of sawn lumber and timber by means of rafts on the lakes and rivers of the United States."

Mr. Towar now set about soliciting support from the lumber manufacturers in his method of transportation, and these gentlemen took the matter up so readily that in a very short time he had contracts from the dealers the aggregate of which would make a large raft, and he set about building it.

There had been a good deal of talk in the Saginaw lumber center about the Towar scheme of rafting lumber across the lakes at half or less of the expense of vessel charges, and all the dealers and others began to take much interest in the project and watch the progress of building the raft. So that after it was fairly begun the lumbermen became so enthusiastic that many came forward and besought Mr. Towar to enlarge his original design and make room for a large consignment from each of them; this he was not loath to agree to, as by piling in the quantity there would be an added profit and the safety of the whole in no way endangered.

The upshot was that when the raft was completed, in five weeks from the time it was commenced, it measured fourteen hundred feet long, fifty feet wide and thirteen to fourteen feet deep, its draft in the water being about eight and a half or nine feet. It contained over four million feet of lumber, board measure, which could not be loaded on less than 25 or 30 of the average sized vessels engaged in the lumber trade on the lakes. It was truly an uncanny piece of marine architecture as it lay tied to the dock, stretching down the river over a quarter of a mile. Two of the most powerful steam tugs from the Detroit River

were engaged to tow it from Saginaw to Buffalo. As it appeared on the lakes it was an object of much curiosity to vessel men and others; the two tugs towing, on meeting other vessels, kept their big steam whistles going, saying, in effect, make way and get out of the road of the monster of the lakes. The best speed that could be attained when both tugs were doing their best steaming was about two miles per hour, whereas either tug alone could haul four to six vessels of average size five to seven miles per hour.

The first raft was a decided success and the lumber was delivered to the several owners in Detroit, Cleveland and Buffalo. Mr. Towar continued the rafting business for several years, but in 1866 he concluded that a less strenuous life than buffeting the storms of the great lakes would be more in consonance with his wishes and the capacity of his advancing years. Accordingly, he leased a farm on the Detroit River, near Trenton, and moved the family there. He had not since boyhood been identified with agriculture, but took hold of this farm with a vim and determination to make it succeed. With this idea of success in view he bought a small herd of milking cows and commenced to furnish milk for the Detroit market; month by month and year by year the herd increased, and at the end of three years he had a large herd of cows and was making a large quantity of milk.

He began to think that the city dealer who was purchasing this milk was not paying a fair price for it, and he decided that he could manage the city retail end of the milk business as well as the farm wholesale manufacture. With Mr. Towar to decide was to act, and in 1870 the family was moved back to Detroit; a milk dealer's business who was running two wagons was purchased, and he started out actively in a new

venture that seemed to promise much success. Mr. Towar introduced many new features in the milk trade of Detroit, and it was not long before Towar's milk and cream became well known and appreciated by the Detroit public for its purity and excellence. After running for ten years the business had developed into a volume that required seventeen retail and one wholesale wagon to handle it, and the sales were approximately four to five thousand quarts daily.

At this juncture, 1880, Mr. Towar was 70 years old and for over fifty years had led a very strenuous, active life, and although his physical and mental powers were still good and active, he decided that he had earned a rest and gradually resigned the management of the creamery business into the hands of his sons. He lived many years after this in contentment and peace, making frequent visits to his relatives and old friends in New York and Canada.

His Politics

Mr. Towar was a life long democrat of the school of Silas Wright of New York, who was the beau ideal of the young democracy of that state in the third and fourth decades of the last century.

During the Civil War of '61-'65 he was a strong war democrat, and enrolled himself in a military company of gray-beards raised in Detroit who patriotically held themselves in readiness to defend the border if an attack by the rebels from Canada should occur, which at one time seemed imminent, as there were strong rumors that the rebels had got together a large force in Canada secretly, whose purpose was to make a descent on Detroit some night and capture a large amount of shipping and then start out on a raid of the whole lake front border.

His Fortune

Mr. Towar during his long life had many "ups" and "downs" in his business activities; during some periods on a high wave of prosperity, at others down in the deep of financial straits and poverty; but always elastic in mind, optimistic in tone and energetic in endeavor, he never allowed failure of plans to dampen his ardor. In poverty or affluence he was the same energetic worker, whether the profits of his endeavor were accumulating satisfactorily or he was struggling against adverse conditions which his prevision could not overcome.

He retired with a snug little fortune; not large, but a handsome competence, sufficient for all the demands of comfort of a prolonged old age. And he felt that he had earned it by doing good work for the world, which was willing to pay a fairly good wage for work well done.

In 1893 the strenuous life he had led began to tell on his iron constitution, and his high strung nervous fabric showed signs of weakening.

He died of nervous degeneration June 6, 1895, having nearly completed his 85th year. He was laid away in Woodmere Cemetery, Detroit, where a stone marks his last resting place.

Hannah Mathews

Hannah Mathews was the daughter of Fletcher Mathews and Elizabeth Sayre. Her mother was the daughter of James Sayre of Horseheads, N. Y., originally from Orange County, N. Y., where Elizabeth was born; in the book devoted to the "Sayre Family," by Theodore Banta, on page 412, is shown very elaborately the ancestry and relatives of this lady. She married



HANNAH M. TOWAR
Photograph at 90 years

Captain Henry Towar for her second husband, so that George W. Towar and Hannah Mathews were of the same household when they were married, although no blood relationship existed between them.

Fletcher Mathews, the father of Hannah, belonged to a family which had numerous relatives and collateral representatives in central New York in an early day, among which were several distinguished members. Fletcher was a merchant in a small town on Seneca Lake called Romulus, where Hannah was born, and he died of typhoid fever when his little daughter was less than two years old. The widow, with five children, returned to her parental homestead and lived there for ten years until Captain Henry Towar, then a widower, came along and they were married. The girlhood of Hannah, consequently, was passed mostly at her grandfather's, and after her twelfth year at her step-father's. Hannah attended the country schools during her early girlhood, and in her later 'teens finished off her education at a young ladies' seminary, Mrs. Ricards, at Geneva, N. Y.

Hannah Mathews came of sturdy stock whose ancestors for several generations had been identified with the settlement and progress of eastern and central New York; she as a girl was rather petite than large, not over five feet four or perhaps five inches tall; neither slender nor broad of build, but square, erect and of easy, graceful movement. The head was large, with high forehead and a wealth of black hair. She was strong and resourceful of mind; never lost her mental balance in emergency, but was always calm and serene with sane arguments and convincing ways towards opponents that generally prevailed both in her household and with society at large. She was pre-eminently domestic in her aspirations and habits, her

children and household occupying the very first place in her thoughts and endeavor. The family was always orderly and devoted to her, because of her lovable nature and absolute purity of character. She was not a "society" woman in the common acceptance of that term, but had hosts of friends in the world at large, and among her numerous nephews, nieces and grandchildren, Aunt Hannah and grandma was the synonym for everything lovely and good. She has been a devout and consistent Christian woman during her whole life, and a member of the Presbyterian Church. She is now, at this writing, May, 1910, ninety-seven and a half years old, with every mental and moral trait normal, but the poor old physical life, with its long years of active strife, has shown rapid deterioration during the last year, and her friends do not expect that she will remain long with them.

Professor Metchnikoff of the Pasteur Institute, Paris, in his book, "The Nature of Man," page 279, has told us that among centenarians and very old people generally, whose lives have been passed sanely and healthily, death is not the unnatural catastrophe we imagine it to be. Death approaches naturally and the human economy develops the "instinct of death," without any fear or terrors. It comes as naturally as birth comes, without thought or apprehension.

Hannah Mathews exemplifies this theory, for the nurse has told me that often in the stillness of the night she has heard her, on waking up and feeling weary perhaps, offer up this little prayer or something similar: "O Lord, I wish I could die and end the struggle in this old body, for thou knowest that I am of no further use here and the world would be the better and my relief great if I could be taken into thy realm, but not my will but thine be done, O Lord."

Not long ago a granddaughter was to be married, and she had taken much interest in the preparations for the wedding, but about a week before the event she was taken with one of her attacks of weak heart and had to go to bed. She always thinks these attacks will end in her death, and hopes for it then. But on this occasion she didn't want to die, as she told the writer, who had dropped in to see her by the bedside. She said, "Oh, I am afraid it is coming now, and it would be so bad just before the wedding, as it might cast a gloom over the festivities up on Ferry Street; after that I would be glad to go."

George W. Towar and Hannah Mathews were married at Alloway, Wayne County, N. Y., on the 6th day of November, 1832. The births from this union were nine children, all boys; four died in infancy and five grew to manhood, as follows:

1. **George W.^s Towar, Jr.**, born December 14, 1835, at Alloway, Wayne County, N. Y. Graduated M. D., medical department Harvard University, class of 1858. Practiced medicine in Colorado and Montana. Appointed Assistant Surgeon 24th Mich. Vol. Infy., Iron Brigade, Army of the Potomac, March, 1863. Served in that army through all its campaigns till June 30, 1865, mustered out of service. Reappointed Acting Assistant Surgeon U. S. Army, August, 1869. Served as Post Surgeon and on many different military Indian campaigns, Department of the Platte, U. S. A., until March, 1882, with the exception of a two-year vacation while engaged in cattle ranching on the western plains. Removed to Detroit in 1882 and in business with Towar's Wayne County Creamery from that date. President of this institution after father's death from 1895 to retirement in 1906. Originator and patentee

of the process known as "Renovated Butter," 1887. Patentee of the rapid process for testing milk for butter fat, now known as the "Babcock Test."

Married Maria Webb Cook, granddaughter of Dr. Edward Tiffin, first governor of Ohio, at Chillicothe, Ohio, November 7, 1878. Now lives at 26 Pitcher Street, Detroit, Mich.

Children

1—**Eleanor Worthington**,⁶ born at Fort Hartsuff, Nebraska, September 6, 1879. Graduated from University of Michigan, B.A., class 1903. Married Robert J. McCollum of Orillia, Ontario, September 4, 1909. Lives in Orillia.

2—**Henry Mathews**,⁶ born at Fort Niobrara, Nebraska, September 9, 1881. Civil Engineer; in business in Chicago. President Atlas Belting Co. Married Myrtle Ballance, July 19, 1906, at Peoria, Illinois. Child:

Henry Mathews Towar,⁷ Jr., born October 9, 1907.

3—**Scott Cook**,⁶ born in Detroit, Mich., November 5, 1882. In business in Chicago. Vice-President Atlas Belting Co.

4—**George Seely**,⁶ born in Detroit, Mich., July 17, 1885. Electrical Engineer. In business in Detroit.

5—**Mary Porter**,⁶ born in Detroit, Mich., July 1, 1892. Schoolgirl.

6—**Mathew Sayre**,⁶ born in Detroit, Mich., May 6, 1896. Schoolboy.

2. **Edgar Henry**⁵ **Towar**, born in Alloway, Wayne County, N. Y., June 6, 1840. Student of law, office of Buel & Trowbridge, Detroit. Admitted to the bar as attorney and counsellor at law before the Michigan Supreme Court, May 17, 1862. Clerk in pay depart-

ment U. S. Army until 1865. Then engaged as corresponding clerk First National Bank, Cincinnati. Removed to Hancock, Mich., 1872, and opened a private bank, afterwards merged into a National Bank. In 1889, moved to Marquette, Mich., and was Vice-President and President of the First National and Marquette National Banks successively. Is now living, retired, at Morristown, New Jersey.

Married Isabel Cardell at Houghton, Mich., May 17, 1866.

Children

1—**Isabell Cardell**,⁶ born at Cincinnati, Ohio, December 17, 1868.

2—**Margaret Coulter**,⁶ born at Cincinnati, Ohio, October 24, 1870.

3. **Fletcher Mathews⁵ Towar**, born at Milton, Pennsylvania, October 4, 1842. Civil Engineer. Spent nearly his whole active business life in service of Engineer Corps, U. S. Army, lake and river surveys, and died of apoplexy in camp while on duty near Joliet, Illinois, August 17, 1899.

Married Kate Warren Wartz at Ypsilanti, Mich., January 15, 1880.

Child

1—**Ethel**,⁶ born December 14, 1880. Graduated at Wells College, Aurora, N. Y., as A.B. Teacher of Languages, High School.

4. **Albert Selah⁵ Towar**, born at Walsingham, Norfolk County, Canada, November 10, 1845. Appointed Paymaster with rank of Major, U. S. Army, March 3, 1875. Served 32 years. Retired from active service as Colonel, U. S. A., April 15, 1907. Now living at Lincoln, Nebraska.

Married Katie A. Gambell at Adrian, Mich., September 23, 1873.

Children

1—**Charles Gambell**,⁶ born at Detroit, Mich., November 2, 1874. Graduated M.D., Detroit College of Medicine, 1899. Practitioner of medicine, Detroit, Atlantic City, N. J., and New York City. Died at latter city of heat prostration, June 30, 1906. Married Florence Sinclair at New York City, September, 1901. Child:

Katharine,⁷ born Detroit, July 6, 1902.

2—**Lila**,⁶ born at Fort Sanders, Wyoming, January 9, 1880. Married Wm. Taylor Irons, June 28, 1904. Child:

Virginia,⁷ born Lincoln, Nebraska, November 8, 1905.

3—**Laura**,⁶ 4—**Helen**,⁶ 5—**Grace**,⁶ died in infancy.

6—**Benjamin Alvord**,⁶ born December 6, 1888. Now student, University of Michigan.

5. **Frank Jonas⁵ Towar**, born at Tilsonburg, Oxford County, Ontario, Canada, November 4, 1852. Graduated at Detroit High School and has spent all of his business life with Towar's Wayne County Creamery, Detroit, Mich. President of that institution since 1906.

Married Elizabeth Sherwood, February 15, 1882.

Children

1—**Edgar Ten Eyck**,⁶ born at Detroit, Mich., May 19, 1883. Now Vice-President Towar's Wayne County Creamery.

2—**Edith Vanderhoef**,⁶ born at Detroit, Mich., November 22, 1884. Married Walter L. Hill of Tennessee, April 30, 1910, at Detroit, Mich. Lives in Detroit.



HENRY M. TOWAR, Jr.,
at 2 years, the latest Towar

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- 3—**Margaret Grace**,^e born February 5, 1887. Graduated Dwight School for Girls at Englewood, N. J., in June, 1907.
- 4—**Albert Jelly**,^e born at Detroit, Mich., June 26, 1889. Student, University of Michigan.
- 5—**Frank Jonas**,^e Jr., born Detroit, Mich., November 5, 1891. Schoolboy.
- 6—**Marion Hayes**,^e born Detroit, Mich., September 7, 1895. Schoolgirl.



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